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## **The High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) appoints the Project Team on Climate Change and Food Security**

In October 2010, the CFS requested the HLPE to conduct a study on climate change and food security, to *“review existing assessments and initiatives on the effects of climate change on food security and nutrition, with a focus on the most affected and vulnerable regions and populations and the interface between climate change and agricultural productivity, including the challenges and opportunities of adaptation and mitigation policies and actions for food security and nutrition.”*

Final findings are to feed the CFS in view of its plenary session of October 2012.

As per the HLPE procedures, the preparation of the report will be undertaken by an HLPE Project Team, under the responsibility of a Team Leader and under the oversight of the HLPE Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee of the HLPE is pleased to announce that it has appointed the following Project Team for its study on Climate Change and Food Security:

**Gerald Nelson (USA, Team Leader)**

**Zucong Cai (China)**

**Charles Godfray (UK)**

**Rashid Hassan (South Africa)**

**Maureen Santos (Brazil)**

**Hema Swaminathan (India)**

### Next steps

The HLPE Steering Committee will now finalize the scope of the study based on the results of the electronic consultation and in consultation with the Project Team Leader. The Project Team will elaborate a first version (V0) of the report, expected for early March 2012, which will be submitted to further expert input through an open electronic consultation. The HLPE will use the FSN forum as vector of that consultation. The Project Team will then produce a draft report (V1) that will be submitted by end of April 2012 to anonymous external scientific peer review, before being finalized. According to the provisions of the Rules and Procedures for the work of the HLPE (article 32), prior to their publication, the final reports are to be approved by the HLPE Steering Committee. This is scheduled to take place in June 2012 at the 5th meeting of the HLPE Steering Committee.

On behalf of the Steering Committee of the HLPE, the HLPE Secretariat

### **Gerald Nelson (Project Team Leader)**



**Gerald Nelson** is Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington, DC and leads Theme 4.3: Policy Analysis for The CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security (CCAFS). He is also project leader of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded project “Global Futures for Agriculture: Integrated Modeling and Scenario Assessment for Ex-ante Research Evaluation” and the BMZ/GTZ funded project “Strategies for Adapting to Climate Change in Rural Sub-Saharan Africa: Targeting the Most Vulnerable”. His research includes global modeling of the interactions among agriculture, land use, and climate change; consequences of macro-economic, sector and trade policies and climate change on land use and the environment using remotely sensed, geographic and socioeconomic data; and the assessment of the effects of genetically modified crops on the environment. Jerry was the coordinating lead author of the Drivers chapter of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Scenarios work. Prior to joining IFPRI, he was Professor at the Department of Agricultural Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois, served as Visiting Scholar at the Economic Research Service at the US Department of Agriculture, and was Specialist and Visiting Assistant Professor at the Agricultural Development (ADC) and the University of the Philippines.

### **Zucong Cai**



**Zucong Cai** is a professor of the School of Geography Science, Nanjing Normal University, editor in chief of *Acta Pedologica Sinica*, and a member of the standing committee of the Soil Science Society of China. He has a BS degree in soil science and agrochemistry from Zhejiang Agricultural University, which was merged into Zhejiang University, and MS and PhD degrees from the Institute of Soil Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, in which he worked till moved to the Nanjing Normal University in August 2011. He is a soil scientist focusing research on carbon and nitrogen transformations in soil and greenhouse gas emissions from croplands. Recently, he is a project leader of the innovative group of the National Natural Science Foundation of China on the processes in soil and between interfaces and the CAS Strategic Priority Research Program on methane and nitrous oxide emissions from land use change and livestock. He cooperates widely with scientists in Japan, Germany, UK, USA, and other countries. He has made major contributions to the understanding of the processes of methane and nitrous oxide emissions from rice fields and natural wetlands in China. He has published more than 300 papers and book chapters, of which more than 100 are in peer-reviewed international journals. He was a winner of the State Natural Science Award (Grad II) in 2008 and the first award of the Soil Science Society of China in 2004.

### **Charles Godfray**



**Charles Godfray** is Hope Professor at Oxford University and Director of the Oxford Martin Programme for the Future of Food. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society and a Foreign Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has been at Oxford since 2006 and was previously Head of Biology and director of the NERC Centre for Population Biology at Imperial College London where he remains a visiting professor. He is a population biologist with broad interests in the environmental sciences and has published in fundamental and applied areas of ecology, evolution and epidemiology. He chaired the Lead Expert Group of the UK Government’s Foresight Project on the Future of Food and Farming and is a member of the strategy advisory board of the UK Global Food Security Programme and the steering group of the UK Government Green Food Project.

## Rashid Hassan



**Rashid Hassan**, South African national, was born in Sudan and received his first and second degrees in agricultural economics from University of Khartoum. He holds a PhD (1989) in economics from Iowa State University (USA). He is currently Professor and Director of the Centre for Environmental Economics and Policy in Africa, at the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, University of Pretoria. He was previously Program Director at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa and Regional Economist at CIMMYT International. He has served as a member of many advisory boards and committees, among others the CGIAR Independent Science and Partnership Council, the South African Human Sciences Research Council, the External Academic Advisory Panel for the WDR 2009 on climate change, the Steering Committee of the African Centre For Climate and Earth Stewardship Science, the Board of Directors of the Stockholm Resilience Centre Board of Directors, the GEF Science and Technical Advisory Panel-STAP IV, and the Science Panel and Co-Chair of the Condition and Trends Working Group of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. He also led the Africa-Wide GEF/World Bank Funded Project on impacts of climate change on agriculture, water and ecosystems. Professor Hassan is a member of the Academy of Sciences of South Africa and has been elected Senior Fellow of the African Association of Agric Economists and Fellow of the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World. He received the University of Pretoria Chancellor Medal for Research. Founding Chief Editor of the African Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, he is associate editor and member of editorial boards of many journals and has published over 140 papers and 12 books.

## Maureen Santos



**Maureen Santos** is an international adviser with the Climate Justice Program in the Environmental Justice and Rights Center of the Federation of Organizations for Social and Educational Assistance (FASE), located in Brazil, and coordinates the working group of climate change for the Brazilian Network for Integration of Peoples. She is an analyst of international relations and has dedicated over the last 10 years to researching and developing popular education and awareness-raising about international trade and regional integration negotiations with recent work focusing on climate change. She monitors the UNFCCC international negotiations with regards to Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) issues and Adaptation; monitors the Brazilian Plan and Policies on Climate Change, specifically in the development of a National Adaptation Plan. Her work at FASE makes her attuned to the social and political background of climate

change challenges, to demands of the civil society, and to awareness raising issues relatively to the social and environmental impacts of climate change. She holds a MS in Political Science from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro from 2007 and is currently visiting professor in the International Relations Department of the Pontificia Universidade Católica Rio de Janeiro.

## Hema Swaminathan



**Hema Swaminathan** is currently an Assistant Professor at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore. She is an empirical economist with broad interests in understanding the causes and consequences of social and human development with a focus on household behaviour. Dr. Swaminathan has field work experience in India and Sub-Saharan Africa and has examined the relationship between individual asset ownership and public health outcomes in several countries in Africa and South Asia. Dr. Swaminathan is co-Principal Investigator in an international project, "In Her Name: Measuring the Gender Asset Gap in Ecuador, Ghana, and India". In India, this has involved a unique, state-representative survey in Karnataka and gets at individual measures of asset ownership. She has also been involved in research projects examining structural determinants of rural poverty and the impact of welfare reform on poor populations in the US. She holds a Ph.D. degree in Agricultural

Economics from the Pennsylvania State University.

## The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the High Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE)

The **Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** is the central international and intergovernmental platform for food security and nutrition, where policies can be designed, interventions can be coordinated, options can be shared and decisions at different levels can be prepared.

The new **CFS** is inclusive. In addition to member countries, participate in the Committee a wider range of organizations working with food security and nutrition from UN agencies like the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis and other UN bodies. It also includes civil society and non-governmental organizations, particularly organisations representing smallholder family farmers, fisherfolk, herders, landless, urban poor, agricultural and food workers, women, youth, consumers and indigenous people.

The **High Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE)** was created in October 2009 as an essential element of the reform of **CFS**, and as the scientific and knowledge-based pillar of the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition.

The **HLPE** aims to help **CFS** to better understand the diversity of issues and rationales when dealing with food and nutrition insecurity. To do so, it will thrive to clarify contradictory information and knowledge, elicit the backgrounds and rationales of controversies, and identify emerging issues. This will among others build upon the diversity of disciplines, backgrounds and regional origins of the Steering Committee members and of Project Teams.

The **HLPE** is not mandated to conduct new research. The **HLPE** will draw its studies based on existing research and knowledge already conducted by various expertise-providing institutions (universities, research institutes, international organizations etc), and adding value by global, multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary analysis.

**HLPE** recommendations and studies will combine scientific knowledge with experiences from the ground, in a same rigorous process. The **HLPE** will translate the richness and variety of forms of expert knowledge from many actors (knowledge of local implementation, knowledge based on global research and knowledge of "best practice") that draw on both local and global sources, into policy-related forms of knowledge.

### Key functions of the HLPE, as stated in the CFS reform document

As directed by the CFS Plenary and Bureau, the HLPE will:

1. Assess and analyze the current state of food security and nutrition and its underlying causes.
2. Provide scientific and knowledge-based analysis and advice on specific policy-relevant issues, utilizing existing high quality research, data and technical studies.
3. Identify emerging issues, and help members prioritize future actions and attentions on key focal areas.

The **HLPE** is directly linked to the foremost international policy platform for food security and nutrition, the **CFS**. This ensures the legitimacy and relevance of the studies undertaken, and their insertion in a concrete political agenda at international level.

The **HLPE** produces its recommendations and advice independently from governmental positions, in order to enrich discussions and debates at **CFS**. Thus, the internal process and its results guarantee the independence of the **HLPE**.

The **HLPE** has a two-tier structure:

- A **Steering Committee** composed of 15 internationally recognized experts in a variety of food security and nutrition related fields.
- **Project Teams** acting on a project specific basis, selected and managed by the StC to analyze/report on specific issues.

More information about the **HLPE** can be found on its website: [www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe](http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe)